

MEETING OF THE ENGLAND COMMITTEE
17th JANUARY 2023
Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

PRESENT:

John Mothersole	Chair
Kevin Bone	Member
Ray Coyle	Member
Rosie Ginday	Member
Maggie Jones	Member
Tarn Lamb	Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Chamberlain	England Director
Emma Corrigan	England Director
Jon Eastwood	Deputy Director, England
Mark Purvis	Deputy Director, England
Sophy Proctor	Senior Head of Funding
Katie Crystal	Senior Governance Officer

(minutes)

FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS:

Oliver Savage	Funding Officer
Rachel Luckin	Funding Manager
Beth Plant	Funding Manager
Richard Beadon Ekers	Funding Officer
Tamsin Davey	Funding Officer
Nicola Thurbon	Senior Head of Regional Funding
Juliette Kelvin	Senior Grant Making Manager
Ruth Stephens	Senior Grant Making Manager
Julie Coxton	Funding Officer
Clare Watkin	Funding Manager
Sam Tague	Funding Manager
Amanda Form	Funding Officer
Damian Robinson	Funding Officer
Steve Lowden	Funding Officer
Rachel Stephens	Head of Funding
Sarah Gibbs	Head of Funding Development

1. COMMITTEE INFORMAL CATCH UP

1.1. The Committee held a closed session for members only.

ESMT and the Senior Governance Officer joined the meeting.

2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.

2.2. No apologies were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1. Ray Coyle declared an interest in the Access to Justice EDA related to a close connection being involved in a legal aid organisation that may potentially be negatively impacted if the EDA was approved.
- 3.2. The Chair deemed that it was acceptable for Ray to remain in the room for the discussion on the award but requested that he not partake in the conversation or decision.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON THE 15th OF NOVEMBER.

- 4.1. The minutes of the previous meetings were approved as an accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1. The action log was reviewed and updated.

6. ENGLAND UPDATE

- 6.1. The England Directors provided the Committee with an update on the England Portfolio. It was noted that the Directorate is currently in its annual business planning phase. A business plan very similar to that of the previous year will be submitted. This is due to the ongoing work of the strategy renewal. Once this work is complete, the business plan will be brought back for revision around the midyear mark.
- 6.2. Emma provided an update on grant award budget in England. The Portfolio is currently in a healthy position and is on track to meet spending requirements by the end of the financial year. This is a testament to the hard work of the staff.
- 6.3. The members were also briefed on the cost-of-living crisis in England. The number of variations related to the crisis continues to increase. Feedback from the sector reflects mounting concerns and pressures. The Directorate will continue to gather data. It was noted that Awards for All now includes an offer for assisting with cost-of-living pressures.
- 6.4. A brief update on the strategy renewal was also provided. Phil noted that planning is now underway for both the internal and external launch of the strategy. England Committee would be kept up to date on these developments. Phil informed the Committee that there would be a period of transition to implement and embed the new strategy.
- 6.5. Phil thanked the Chair for his work on, and contribution to, the successful mayoral meetings that had taken place in England.
- 6.6. Jon Eastwood thanked the Committee for reviewing and approving a variation from Wolves Lane Consortium prior to Christmas. It was noted that planning permission associated with the application had been granted and the award is on track to deliver the objectives outlined in the application.

7. APPROACH TO COST-OF-LIVING

- 7.1. Jon Eastwood provided the Committee with a brief background on the cost-of-living crisis. The Fund has been signalling externally to ensure that communities know they can access support. Additionally, a cross-Fund working group has been established to align activity and data. It was noted that variations related to the crisis had significantly increased, with Scotland receiving 340 variation requests related to the crisis by the close of the last calendar year. In response to the crisis, Scotland has launched a Household Hardship Fund, which was quickly oversubscribed, and additional funds added. It was noted that the level of demand demonstrates the urgent need from communities. Jon also noted that the UK Portfolio has given £9.7 million to the other portfolios across the Fund to support the cost-of-living response.
- 7.2. The England Portfolio's approach to the crisis was defined as having three key aspects:
 - i. Supporting existing Projects / grant holders with increased costs and demand and their organisational resilience.
 - ii. New cost of living focused projects
 - iii. Working with others to support impacted key communities
- 7.3. It was explained that several cost-of-living indicators were being tracked within the portfolio. These indicators include debt, energy, food, inflation, poverty, transport, unemployment and welfare. Jon noted that, on average, 15-20 percent of applications to the England portfolio relate to these areas. By December of 2022, this percentage had increased to 50 percent.
- 7.4. The Committee noted that an increasing proportion of the population will have higher needs due to the crisis. The importance of considering this within the strategy renewal process was highlighted.
- 7.5. The Chair thanked the team for their work on the response. While the variations are a positive sign of support for communities, the importance of ensuring new activity is delivered to communities was emphasised.
- 7.6. The Chair noted that the terms of reference for the England Committee Sub-committee on the Cost-of-Living Crisis had been approved by the Committee via correspondence and presented at the meeting for information.

8. FUNDING DECISIONS

- 8.1. Funding decisions are restricted and can be found in Annex A.

9. REFLECTIONS ON THE DAY

- 9.1. The Committee reflected on the meeting and shared feedback.
- 9.2. Being that there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 15:30.

SIGNED:

DATE: 13/03/2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Mothersole', with a horizontal line underneath.

John Mothersole
CHAIR